

For immediate release

## HCA accepting public comment on proposed technology reviews

*Proposed topics include treatments related to asthma, wound therapy*

January 6, 2015

OLYMPIA – The Health Care Authority (HCA) is proposing review of seven technology topics in 2016 by its Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Program. The public can comment on the proposed technologies until 5 p.m., Jan. 20, 2015, by visiting [www.hca.wa.gov/hta](http://www.hca.wa.gov/hta) and emailing responses to: [shtap@hca.wa.gov](mailto:shtap@hca.wa.gov).

The HTA program will also conduct a 90-minute conference call at 2:30 p.m. on Jan. 9 to address questions about the proposed technologies. Contact information for the conference call is also available on the HTA home page: [www.hca.wa.gov/hta](http://www.hca.wa.gov/hta).

New technologies proposed for review include:

- **Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO):** ECMO is a critical care treatment that provides heart-lung bypass support outside of a patient's body.
- **Bronchial thermoplasty for asthma:** Bronchial thermoplasty is a procedure used to treat asthma that is not well-controlled by medication.
- **Novocure/Optune®, also described as tumor treating fields:** Novocure/Optune® is a medical device currently approved for treatment of adult patients with brain cancer (glioblastoma multiforme) that has recurred following chemotherapy.
- **Pharmacogenetic testing:** A growing number of new laboratory tests and computer-based predictive algorithms are available to assess an individual patient's potential metabolic response to certain drugs.
- **Platelet-rich plasma injections for healing:** Platelet rich plasma (PRP) injections are proposed for a variety of wound-healing applications.
- **Negative pressure wound therapy for in-home use:** Negative pressure wound therapy (NPWT) is used in the treatment of slow or non-healing wounds. Home use of NPWT includes use of a portable device.
- **Fecal microbiota instillation:** Primary use is to treat individuals with difficult-to-treat infections caused by *Clostridium difficile* (*C. difficile*). Frozen stool containing a healthy balance of bacteria (flora) from healthy donors is transplanted to an infected individual's bowel to restore the normal balance of bacteria.

In addition, two health technologies previously reviewed by HTA have been determined to have new evidence that may change the previous coverage decision. The two technologies selected for re-review are:

- **Cardiac stents.** New literature, changing standard practices and new absorbable stent devices support a re-review.
- **Spinal injections.** New literature and new safety concerns support a re-review.

The Health Technology Assessment program was created by the Legislature to review health care technologies with evidence-based criteria, making sure that they are safe and effective, and that they offer a significant benefit before recommending their use to state health care programs including Apple Health (Medicaid), Public Employee Benefits, and the Department of Labor and Industries (workers' compensation program).

The ultimate selection of technologies for review is made by Health Care Authority Director Dorothy Teeter, with consultation from participating state agencies.

HCA contracts with an independent entity to produce scientific, evidence-based reports on the selected health technologies. A clinical committee reviews the reports to determine whether state-purchased health care should pay for the technology.

Technical details for individuals or organizations wishing to submit comment are below. For additional information about submitting public comment, please visit the Health Technology Assessment website at: [www.hca.wa.gov/hta](http://www.hca.wa.gov/hta).

After this public comment period closes, Teeter will make a final selection of health technologies to be reviewed or re-reviewed in 2016.

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#### **Media contacts**

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#### **About Washington State Health Care Authority**

HCA oversees the state's top two health care purchasers — Washington Apple Health (Medicaid) and the Public Employee Benefits Board Program. We work with partners to help ensure Washingtonians have access to better health and better care at a lower cost. For more information, visit [www.hca.wa.gov](http://www.hca.wa.gov).